



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Robert L. Morgan
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

(801) 538-5340 telephone

(801) 359-3940 fax

(801) 538-7223 TTY

www.nr.utah.gov

November 22, 2002

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist *LK*

RE: Site Inspection, Sierra Stone, Inc., Sierra Starlight Quarry, M/003/049, Box Elder County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 9 and 17, 2002
Time of Inspection: 1:30 p.m.
Conditions: Partly cloudy, warm
Participants: Ernie Hale, Operator, and Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To witness reclamation activities to reclaim the site to 5 acres or less.

Observations:

Access to the Sierra Starlight Quarry was made via an access road from Star Stone Quarries, Inc.'s Cotton Thomas Quarry permit area.

On October 9, 2002, I met Mr. Hale at the quarry. We reviewed the disturbed areas and identified areas that could be reclaimed so that the total disturbed area would be 5 acres or less, thus qualifying as a small mining operation and also abating the notice of non-compliance issued on July 3, 2002. It was determined that reclamation of the new access road construction, reclamation of the old access road which have been replaced by switchbacks to reduce the grade, and a small portion of the waste dump to the northern side of the operation would reduce the acreage sufficiently to meet the 5-acre goal. Reclamation activities and requirements for each area were reviewed so that there would be no misunderstanding as to what needed to be completed.

Reclamation work began about 3:30 pm on the new access road. Given the time length of time that work was conducted and the amount of work completed, it was evident that it would take more than a couple days to compete. Mr. Hale was told to contact me the day before he finished so that I could re-inspect and make sure the work was adequate before equipment was moved from the site or before quarrying operations resumed.

On October 17, 2002, I returned to the quarry – having been notified that the work would be completed early that day. I arrived at the site about 10:30 am. Reclamation of the new access road, the portion of the waste dump and most of the re-aligned road through the switchbacks had been completed. A stretch of 50 feet of this old road still needed to be completed. Regrading work was completed on October 17th. Reclamation completed prior to my arrival was acceptable, Mr. Hale

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indicated that the seed to reseed this would be delivered later that day and would be applied the next morning. A phone call the next day indicated that the seeding work had been completed.

Several photos were taken to document site conditions.

Conclusions:

Reclamation work completed between October 9th and October 17th has adequately abated the Notice of Non-compliance that was issued on July 3, 2002.

Recommendations:

The operator should be allowed to resume operations as a small mining operation. The Division should also return the Large Mining Notice for this site until such time that Mr. Hale can properly permit and bond a large mining operation.

jb
cc: Ernie Hale, Sierra Stone
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